



St. Therese Parish

9525 W Bluemound Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53226

sttheresemke.org
info@sttheresemke.org
(414) 771-2500
Facebook: @sttheresemke

We are St. Therese Catholic Church, a community of believers, who walk together by faith in Christ Jesus, and minister in the Little Way of St. Therese, as we strive hand-in-hand to live as God's people.

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

East Church

5424 W Bluemound
Milwaukee, WI 53208

West Church/Office

201 N 76th St
Milwaukee, WI 53213

stvincentpallotti.org / vpallotti@stvpc.org
(414) 453-5344

Facebook: @stvincentpallottimke
YouTube: @st.vincentpallottiparish



A Community of disciples, nourished by the Eucharist, caring for each other and reaching out to others.

December 1, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRAY THAT YOU HAVE STRENGTH.

LUKE 21:36

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
Sunday 7:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East
9:00AM - St. Therese
10:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6:25AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East
Tues: 8:45AM - St. Therese
Tues: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
Wed: 6:00PM - St. Therese
Thurs: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
First Friday: 5:30PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15-3:45PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
Sunday 6:45-7:15AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East
First Sunday of the Month - 8:15AM - St. Therese
Or by appointment on weekdays

Pray the Rosary

Saturday : 3:15PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
Sunday: 7:00AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East
Third Sunday of the Month -10:00AM - St. Therese

Adoration

First Friday 6:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West
Wednesdays 5:30PM - St. Therese
Thursdays 11:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Blessing of the Sick

After Mass on the First Full Weekend of the Month.
You can also contact either Parish Office or Fr. Tom PC on his cell phone (414) 308-6238 to arrange a visit.

Baptism, Marriage and RCIA

Please call either Parish Office.
Preparation can take nine months or more.

Funerals

Contact either Parish Office to plan.



Parish Pastoral Council

1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:00PM

To contact a Parish Pastoral Council Member, send an email to council@sttheresemke.org or leave a message for them in either parish office. Meeting minutes are available in the parish offices.

Chairperson

Art Nennig

Vice Chairperson

Brett Surinak

Secretary

Jennifer Tierney

Trustees

Dennis Ferger – STP (414) 546-7330
Christopher Gauthier – SVP (414) 302-1033
Kathy Hubrich – STP (414) 839-2669
Lenny Schaefer – SVP (414) 534-1450

Members-At-Large

David Helterbran Linda Okruhlica
Sr. Marilyn Metz Tom Ratkowski
Mary Noeske

Saint Vincent de Paul
(414) 462-7837

Hospital Visits

The Federal Privacy Regulation (HIPAA—Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act) prohibits hospitals from informing churches of a patient’s presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you are admitted to a hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact either Parish Office.

Prayer List for Mass

It is our privilege to pray at our weekend masses for those in need. If you would like to add a name to the list, please contact either Parish Office.

Need Prayer?

Call the Prayer Network at (414) 810-9844

Need Holy Communion?

Call either Parish Office

Pastor of St. Vincent Pallotti Parish & St. Therese Parish

Fr. Thomas Pulikkeel Chacko, SAC
ext. 1 at St. Therese and ext. 102 at St. Vincent Pallotti
fr.thomaspc@stvpc.org
(414) 308-6238

St. Therese Parish Staff

Parish Emergencies (414) 771-2500 – Push 0

Office Hours: Friday and Saturday: Closed Sunday: 10:00AM-11:30AM
Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs: 8:00AM–12:00PM Onsite; 12:00PM–4:00PM Remote

Director of Administrative Services

Heather Goeden ext. 2
heather@sttheresemke.org

Finance Director

Christine Jensen ext. 4
christine@sttheresemke.org

Choir Director

Carrie Sanders

Organist

Kathy Luty

Catechesis Ministry

Sr. Marilyn Metz –
Co-Coordinator Preschool to Grade 8 Program
& Coordinator of First Reconciliation and First
Communion: gr2_3@sttheresemke.org

Mary Rose Sanger – Co-Coordinator Preschool
to Grade 8 Program:
mrs77stt@sttheresemke.org

Rick Reinders – Coordinator of High School &
Youth Confirmation: rreinders@sttheresemke.org

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Staff

Office (414) 453-5344

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:30AM-3:30PM

Director of Admin & Development

Susana Cuellar ext. 109
sscuellar@stvpc.org

Director of Liturgy & Music

Carrie Sanders (414) 258-4165
ext. 107
csanders@stvpc.org

Food Service Director

Laura Ruiz-Reyes ext. 120
lruiz-reyes@stvpc.org

Secretary

Lori Gabert ext. 101
lgabert@stvpc.org

Bookkeeper

Kari Utzerath ext. 104
kutzerath@stvpc.org

Scrip Coordinator

Therese Schaefer (414) 534-3836

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish School Staff

Office: (414) 258-4165 **Fax:** (414) 258-9844

Principal

Joe Fryda ext. 111
jfryda@stvps.org

Vice Principal

Tracy Irwin ext. 114
tirwin@stvps.org

**Office Manager/
Choice Coordinator**

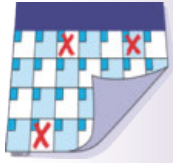
Lirse Jones ext. 110
ljones@stvps.org

Parish Membership / Support

Anyone over age 18 is invited to register as an adult member.
Please call either Parish Office for more information.

The deadline for the December 8 Bulletin has passed. The next available bulletin is December 15.

either



Events for the Week

STP = St. Therese Parish SVP-E = St. Vincent Pallotti East Church
SVP-W = St. Vincent Pallotti West Church

Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 8:15AM Confession at STP
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 10:00AM Blessing of the Sick at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted

Monday, December 2

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E

Tuesday, December 3

- 8:45AM Morning Mass at STP
- 9:15AM Bible Study at STP
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 5:30PM Adoration at STP
- 6:00PM Evening Mass at STP
- 7:00PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at STP

Thursday, December 5

- 11:30AM Adoration at SVP-W
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 2:00PM Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry @ STP
- 4:00PM Choir Rehearsal at SVP-W
- 7:00PM Group 100 AA

Friday, December 6

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Church Cleaning at SVP-W
- 11:00AM 55+ Social Club Christmas Luncheon at Alioto's
- 5:30PM First Friday Mass at SVP-W
- 6:00PM First Friday Adoration at SVP-W

Saturday, December 7

Prayer Shawl/Healing Blessing at SVP

- 3:15PM Confessions at SVP-W
- 3:15PM Rosary at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Mass at SVP-W

Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer Shawl/Healing Blessing at SVP

Sharing Weekend/ SCRIP Weekend at STP

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 9:15AM Children's Liturgy of the Word at STP
- 10:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool – Grade 8 Program at STP
- 10:00AM High School Catechesis at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted



Intentions & Readings for the Week



December Sanctuary Candle at STP

For those working in social support roles

Sunday, December 1

Readings *Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14(1b)/1Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36*

Monday, December 2

Readings *Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11*
6:25AM (SVP-E) Blessings for Aranda-Rojas Family

Tuesday, December 3

Observance: **St. Francis Xavier, Priest**

Readings *Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24*
8:45AM (STP) †Greg Gorak
12:00PM (SVP-W) Blessings for Rick & Diane Kramasz

Wednesday, December 4

Observance: **St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Readings *Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37*
6:25AM (SVP-E) All Souls in Purgatory
8:15AM (SVP-W) School Mass
6:00PM (STP) †John Brunner

Thursday, December 5

Readings *Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27*
12:00PM (SVP-W) †Mary Kim Roberts

Friday, December 6

Observance: **St. Nicholas, Bishop**

Readings *Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31*
6:25AM (SVP-E)

Saturday Mass, December 7

Observance: **St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Readings *Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8*
4:00PM (SVP-W) †Mary Ann Duehring (Family)

Sunday Mass, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Readings *Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6*
7:30AM (SVP-E) Parishioners
9:00AM (STP) †Marcelline Valdovinos Hale and St. Therese Parish
10:30AM (SVP-W) †Ed Granneman (A. Sessner)



To be included, please call either Parish Office.

Dorothy Ash, Peter Carlis, Brandon Choe, Michael Czarnecki, Nancy Dineen, Dean Doberstein, Kylie Doyne, Elizabeth and Elijah, Jan Eno, Kathleen Fugiasco, Family G, Matthew Harrison, Dan Heinz, Josette Jaeger, Mary Kirchner, Helen Klister, Julie Kross, Betty Lovinus, Rachel Lund, Kathy Manthe, Debbie Martin, Loretta Merz, Bob O'Neil, Debbie Opichka, Fr. Norm Oswald, Celeste Rau, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Kaity Shields, Michael Sullivan, Robert Szablewski, Beverly T., John Wachowiak, Chris Wehausen





Plan Ahead for Your Christmas Treats

Pre-order famous St. Therese Christmas Cookies to guarantee that you will have cookies this holiday season! You can order online or call Mary at (414) 425-2028 through December 11. Get cookies before they are all sold out! If any boxes are not already spoken for, they will be for sale on Sunday, December 15 after Mass. We had very few boxes left last year. Pick up times will be listed on the December 1 bulletin insert.



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who helped with the Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Prayer Service and hospitality. To Fr. PC and the presiders from the other congregations, choir members and musicians for the beautiful music, lectors, hospitality ministers, to those who prepared and brought the delicious desserts for the hospitality, and to those who helped set up, serve the food, and clean up afterwards. All of you made this a prayerful service and an enjoyable evening.

Gift Cards for Christmas

Take the hassle out of Christmas shopping and give gift cards to everyone on your list while supporting our parish. Gift card orders through the SCRIP program will be taken next Sunday, December 8. Complete the form in today's bulletin and bring it to mass next Sunday. Or download a form from the St. Therese Parish website and mail it to/drop it off to the parish office, to be received no later than December 5. Your gift cards will be available Sunday, December 15, in plenty of time for Christmas. Your participation is much appreciated. Thank you!

2024 CSA Update

We are at 76.31% of our goal of \$23,837 with 26.46% of the parish participating. Help us reach our goal! Any gift is needed and welcomed no matter the size. Thank you!

Scan to see the 2024 Catholic Stewardship Appeal video and learn how your gift does God's work in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. To donate, visit www.catholicappeal.org, text APPAL2024 to 414-368-8380 or mail your check to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, 3501 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235.

Snow and Weather Closings

In the event of snow or weather closings for the parish, please check Channel 12 WISN-TV or WISN.com (WISN website) for closures. Please also note to look for "St. Therese-Milwaukee" in Milwaukee County. (Sometimes there is confusion with "St. Theresa" and "St. Therese" other cities and counties of the archdiocese.)



Sharing Weekend is Next Weekend: December 8

The Sharing Weekend recipient for December is Milwaukee Women's Center, a Division of Community Advocates, Inc.

Milwaukee Women's Center empowers individuals and families to live safe, independent, and healthy lives by offering innovative, culturally sensitive, and holistic care. As a vital support for survivors of domestic violence, Milwaukee Women's Center provides 24-hour crisis assistance through the Domestic Violence Crisis Line at 414-671-6140, along with emergency shelter and trauma-informed support. Our services include comprehensive case management, counseling, substance use disorder treatment, children's programming, support groups, safety planning, and financial, legal, and medical advocacy, as well as assistance in securing safe housing. Outside of our emergency shelter, we also offer programs for men with histories of violence, helping them develop healthier behaviors and break the cycle of domestic violence for good.

Donations can be made at Mass, mailed to the Parish Office or by using the QR code to donate online. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Milwaukee Women's Center.



Giving* Advent Giving 2024

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas and the birth of the baby Jesus, we also remember the words of the adult Jesus telling us to care for the poor, the homeless, the sick and the suffering. Advent Giving at St. Therese this year can be done online, through the mail, or in person. We will use the SCRIP program to provide gift cards for Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, ERAS Senior Network, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the VA Hospital. Special Advent SCRIP order forms are available in this week's bulletin and on the St. Therese website. Orders and payment must be turned in by the end of the 9:00AM Mass on Sunday, December 8. The gift cards will be distributed to the organizations directly. If you prefer to give a cash donation, you are welcome to make it online using the QR code (through December 8th!) or put cash or a check in the collection basket or mail to the parish office to be received no later than December 15. If you write a check, make it out to St. Therese with the organization in the memo line. Please clearly indicate how you would like your donation allocated. If it is not indicated, we will divide your donation equally among the organizations. Thank you for your generosity.



Flower/Candle Memorial Donations for the Christmas Season

Consider remembering a loved one or honoring a special intention by donating a memorial toward the cost of flowers and candles for the Christmas Season. Complete the form below and return with your donation in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office.



Candle and Flower Donations—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Donor Name _____

Phone () _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Select one: In Memory In Honor In Thanksgiving

Intention _____

Publish in bulletin? Yes No Print intention, not donor

Looking to donate online? Use the QR Code on the right to make a contribution to St. Therese Parish on our online giving website. Thank you for your generosity.



CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection Totals will be reported on the second weekend of the month.

Please remember St. Therese in your will!

9:00AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed on our Facebook page. It is also posted on our website after Mass.

Like us and follow us on Facebook @sttheresemke!



Baptism

Congratulations to Devyn and Alexandra Favia on the baptism of their daughter, **Lyla Jean**.

Lyla was baptized on Sunday, November 17 at the 10:30am Mass.

May God's blessings shine upon them as we welcome Lyla into our Catholic Community.

REMINDER: Change of Tuesday Mass Time

Beginning this Tuesday, December 3, Mass will be celebrated at Noon at the west church.

There will no longer be an 8:00am Mass on Tuesdays at St. Vincent Pallotti. All Mass intentions previously scheduled for the 8:00am Mass will be celebrated at the Noon Mass.

For those who prefer a morning Mass, there is an 8:45am Mass each Tuesday, at St. Therese.

Next Weekend, December 7-8, there will be a second collection to help with the cost of decorating, and Christmas Mass expenses. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



This year's giving tree is for the Women's Care Center and Capuchin Toy Drive.

A complete list will be available by the Giving Tree.

Women's Care Center provides free, confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women including ultrasounds. Help fill the crib and save babies by donating: **baby wash, baby lotion, formula, new or gently used winter baby clothing size 0 – 3T, diapers newborn and sizes 4-7.**

Capuchin Toy Drive needs 3,000 toys this Christmas. Gift ideas: **Playdoh Sets • Scooter • Hot Wheels Cars & Track • RC Car or Truck • Music Head/Earphones • Coloring Set & Easel • Action Figures • Jumbo Character Stuffed Plush Animal • Etch-A-Sketch • Basketball, Football, Baseball or Soccer ball • Children's Books • Other toys for children birth to 10 years of age.**

Thank you for your generosity. The Giving Tree will be available through December 22. Call Cathy Healey at 414-412-7940 with questions



The **Stewardship Parish Support** table will be posted on the second weekend each month showing the entire previous month's contributions.

Thank you for your contributions!

Please remember St. Vincent Pallotti in your will.

Did You Know???

Cookie Sale!

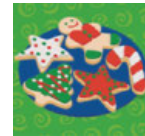
The Choir Cookie Sale will take place on the weekend of December 14 and 15 in the Parish Center after the 4pm and 10:30am Masses, and at the back of Church at the East Site after the 7:30am Mass. Your support, by donating cookies for the sale or supplies for baking, is needed and appreciated.

- ◆ The ingredients we need are: all-purpose flour, unsalted butter, and white granulated sugar.

We need to have these items by December 8, please.



- ◆ Your homemade cookie donations that are dropped off by 1:00pm on December 13 will be included in our pre-packaged trays.
- ◆ Your homemade cookies, that are dropped off before each Mass on December 14 and 15 will be presented on the tables for customers to choose from their custom purchase.
- ◆ For more details, please call the office or talk to the Music Director, Carrie Sanders after any Mass.



Also, on December 14 and 15, the SVP Craft Circle will have tables of beautiful craft items for sale and a cart of used books and games will be for sale as well.

Ham Sandwiches will be available for purchase each day too!

There will be pictures with Santa on Sunday, December 15. Please plan on heading to the Parish Center for this fun event!





From the Earth Ministry: Recycling of Christmas Lights



As the holiday season approaches, attention turns to decorating our homes. As you review your plans and check your strings of lights, you might find that some lights no longer work. Strings of lights cannot be recycled in the usual manner, as they cause entangling in the recycling machines. However, the Milwaukee Zoo will accept and recycle strings of lights through December 31. Lights can be put in the big yellow box in the Gathering Place. Alternatively, lights can be left with the gate attendants if you are not planning to spend the day at the Zoo. The large hardware stores in town are not accepting strings of lights this year. Thank you for all of your recycling efforts.

Altered Bulletin Deadlines

- December 15 Bulletin - Articles due December 4 at 8:00AM
- December 22 Bulletin - Articles due December 10 at 8:00AM
- December 29 Bulletin - Articles due December 18 at 8:00AM
- January 5 Bulletin - Articles due December 20 at 8:00AM

55+ Social Club Annual Christmas Party

All members of St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti parishes are welcome to join the members of the 55+ Social Club at their annual Christmas party on December 6 at 11:30AM at Alioto's Restaurant. We'll enjoy companionship, a delicious meal of salmon, lasagna, tenderloin tips, or baked cod (cost \$30), sing Christmas carols, and select a Santa gift. We hope you will join us! Reservations and payment due by December 1. Questions? Contact Rosina at (262) 782-1966.



Senior Planet Classes

Free Technology Education for Older Adults

10:30AM to 12:00PM in the Firefly Room of the Wauwatosa Library.

Instruction for Safe Online Shopping (12/3) – Fasten your elf hat! Do you have some holiday shopping you need to tackle? We'll be talking about the most popular online shopping websites. We'll discuss Amazon, Etsy, Target, Walmart and eBay. We'll address your online shopping issues, do a little practice shopping and even explore online grocery ordering and food delivery.

Tech & Tinsel Celebration (12/16) – Join us as we celebrate YOU and all that you've learned in Senior Planet this year! Connect with each other and our instructors at this festive event!

Catholic Charities Adult Day Center

Know a loved one who needs daytime care? Or a senior who lives at home? Members enjoy compassionate care, socialization, companionship, wellness activities. Open weekdays 7:00AM to 4:30PM at 1919 N 60th St, Milwaukee. Check out Catholic Charities ADULT DAY CENTER. New members welcome - call today! (414) 771-6063 Email: ajankowski@ccmke.org



Advent & Christmas Information

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Holyday of Obligation



Join us to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation. This year, the holy day falls on Sunday, so the Feast is moved to **Monday, December 9**. We will offer mass at: 6:25AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - East (5424 West Bluemound Road), 12:15PM at St. Therese (9525 W Bluemound Rd) and at 6:30PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West (201 N. 76th Street).



Join us on **Wednesday, December 18** for our Advent Penance Service at St. Therese Parish. We will start with a prayer service at 4:00PM, followed by Adoration and individual confession until 6:00PM. All are welcome!

Advent Booklets and Materials Available

Advent starts today! Happy New Church Year too. Advent Reflection booklets as well as other materials are at the back entrance to the church for you to take and use during the season of Advent. Spend time in prayer becoming closer to God with a different perspective of this season.



- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
 - 4:00PM at St. Therese Parish
 - 4:00PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West
- Christmas Day Mass – Wednesday, December 25th
 - 7:30AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - East
 - 10:00AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West
- Solemnity of Mary/World Day of Prayer for Peace
 - Tuesday, December 31st at 4:00PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West *Adoration before Mass at 3:30PM*
 - Wednesday, January 1st
 - 6:25AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - East
 - 9:00AM at Saint Therese Parish

Catechesis Corner



- We hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving. There are NO classes today - Sunday, December 1. We will see everyone back in class next Sunday, December 8!

Upcoming Class Schedule:

- CLOW: December 8
- Sunday Morning Age 3 – Grade 8 Program: December 8
- High School Program/Confirmation Prep: December 8



Rest in Peace: Bishop Richard Sklba

It is with heavy hearts but with hope in the Resurrection that we inform you that Bishop Richard Sklba has died. Bishop Richard J. Sklba was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on September 11, 1935, and was baptized at Holy Trinity Parish on September 30, 1935, the feast of Saint Jerome who is the patron saint of Scripture students.

After attending a public elementary school on the outskirts of the city of his birth, he spent two years at Saint Catherine's High School, Racine, before transferring to Saint Francis Minor Seminary, Milwaukee, to finish high school and begin college studies. From 1954 to 1960, he studied at the Gregorian University, Rome, completing an undergraduate degree in philosophy and a graduate degree in theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in Rome for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1959. He was assigned to Saint Mary's Parish, Elm Grove, in 1960 and served the parish as an assistant pastor for two years.

In 1962, he returned to Rome for three more years of study. While there, he attended the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, and completed the equivalent of an advanced master's degree in sacred Scripture. He completed the equivalent of a doctoral degree in biblical studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas of Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome. He was privileged enough to be present in Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, for the opening session of the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962.

After returning to the United States, he spent the next 11 years teaching Scripture at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, and served at Saint Veronica's Parish, Milwaukee on weekends. In 1976, he was appointed rector of the seminary by Archbishop Cousins. When ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Archbishop Weakland on December 19, 1979, Bishop Sklba became one of America's youngest bishops.

For the past 30 years, Bishop Sklba has served on various committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops including Priestly Life and Ministry, Doctrine, Liturgy, Permanent Diaconate, as well as Marriage and Family. He was appointed to several task forces including the Teaching Function of the Diocesan Bishop and the sub-committee for Inclusive Language. He chaired the sub-committee on the Review of Scripture Translations from 1991 to 2001.

Bishop Sklba served as chair of the USCCB's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs from 2005-2008. In that capacity, he had the privilege of introducing the nation's religious leaders from several traditions including Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and Jain to Pope Benedict XVI during the Holy Father's historic pastoral visit to the United States in April of 2008. He has been a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America since 1968 and served as its president in 1982. Over the years, he also participated in several archaeological expeditions to sites in Israel.

Active in the church's ecumenical and interreligious relationships on a national and local level, Bishop Sklba has co-chaired the national Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue since 1998. In February of 2006, Bishop Sklba was invited to attend the ninth General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil, as a member of the official Vatican delegation headed by Cardinal Walter Kasper. He has been an invited ecumenical guest at many national meetings of the country's mainline Protestant Churches. He has also participated in countless meetings and projects with Jewish scholars of the country in an effort to promote interreligious understanding and cooperation.

His many professional memberships include the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Society for Biblical Literature. Bishop Sklba has also published articles, books, papers and occasional book reviews. In 1988, he was awarded the Catholic Theological Society of America's John Courtney Murray Award for achievement in Theology.

Bishop Sklba was elected archdiocesan administrator by the College of Consultors in May of 2002, and served in that capacity until the Most Reverend Timothy Dolan was installed as Archbishop of Milwaukee on August 28, 2002. Bishop Sklba continued to serve as the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as an auxiliary bishop and general vicar under Archbishops Dolan and ListECKI. He also taught Scripture at Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners, from 2006 through 2009.

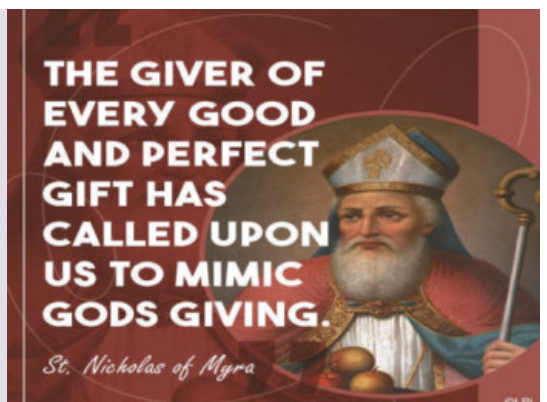
On September 11, 2010, the occasion of his 75th birthday, Bishop Sklba, as required by canon law, submitted his resignation. On October 18, 2010, the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, Pope Benedict XVI accepted Bishop Sklba's resignation. Bishop Sklba was serving the archdiocese as a "retired" bishop assisting in providing weekend help at parishes and presiding at confirmations.

St. Nicholas | Feast Day December 6th

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15th, 270 – December 6th, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys. Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

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